

2/11/67

Dear Jim,

Thanks for the PSA on Merriman Smith. Please let me know if you log anything. Your chances are better than mine. He has declined to debate me at the "ational Press Club on the ground that public speaking is not his forte. Because he is fond of calling me a Maryland turkey farmer (and I hate turkeys), I presume he believes gobbles more qualification than "Thank you, Mr. President". So, I challenged him to debate me on his 1965 story, on which he is the world's greatest expert, and offered to accept any journal with which he makes arrangements and to give him my piece in advance so he can devote all of his to answering mine. No answer.

Of course, he has acknowledged that with respect to this one fact he didn't consult his notes. He then ignored all he had built on this one fact. Hence, if he does not change the rest, he is the authority for saying the shots came from the sheriff's office.

If he ~~unhappy~~ answers you, please ask him to specify where I was wrong about the weather, wrong about the organization of the motorcade and with this "for openers" why he recommended his readers go no further.

I'd love to debate him, for his entire story was wrong, wrong by comparison with Merriman Smith and UPI above all!

My most recent researches have been among the most fruitful. They delay WHITEWASH III, as I believe will another book I think I'll do real quick, Manchester MACHIAVELLI: The Unintended Unofficial Whitewash, 25% done, if I go ahead. Smith has approximated but not quite equalled Manchester's record on accuracy (he is closer by one shot).

When you speak to Herve or Carl, please remind them of the copy of the tape I had asked Hal to get from friends in LA who had it. I did not need it when I wrote for it, because after a radio appearance against him that he'll never forget, I got tossed off a TV debate with Louis Nizer. But I'd like to use it elsewhere. And give them my best.

If Harve would like me to debate Nizer on his program, would I be delighted! Also, he might be interested in knowing that Newsweek notwithstanding, Liebelser did not disclose that (if it is true) Life accidentally destroyed the frames of the Zapruder film. The Baltimore Sun did two months ago after I was in touch with them, and these missing frames are on the original copies (I've checked, as has George Herman), and Liebelser did know they were missing in the stills (see WHITEWASH II) for he said so in his belated and incompetent interrogation of Zapruder....I've got a lot of new and entirely fresh stuff for the next time I'm out there.

Regards to you all, and again thanks,

Harold Weisberg